

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

AI 1- 24. (canceled)

25. (new) A method for analysis of a collection of documents which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting a set of documents for analysis;
- b) preparing for electronic analysis of the documents by incorporating selected document sections into a database compatible format;
- c) selecting at least one document section;
- d) forming a list of analysis key words from one or more document sections into an initial word list;
- e) removing duplicate or nonessential words;
- f) standardizing word forms of the initial word list to a common form;
- g) setting a word list threshold;
- h) removing word forms from the initial word list that are present with a frequency less than the word list threshold;
- i) sorting the resulting word list by frequency

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- j) forming a first word correlation matrix using the initial word list;
 - k) counting the frequency with which a word pair is found in a collection of selected documents;
 - l) setting a first frequency count threshold;
 - m) forming a first technology topics collection by selecting word pairs with frequency counts above the first frequency count threshold for each column in the first word correlation matrix;
 - n) forming an additional word correlation matrix from the words in the collection of the first technology topics;
 - o) forming an additional technology topics collection by associating word pairs from one or more first technology topics;
 - p) optionally repeating steps n and o;
 - q) counting, for each technology topic, the number of words appearing in each document of the document collection and optionally applying a weighting factor;
 - r) assigning each document in the collection to an additional technology topic; and
 - s) forming a standard picture of technology evolution by plotting individual documents on a graph with selected technology topics along one axis and a date along another axis.

26. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the said collection of

A1 documents is chosen from one or more of the group comprising patents, scientific papers, trade journal articles, newspaper articles, press releases, web pages and magazine articles. or. tv

27. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the document section is chosen from one or more of the group comprising document titles, headlines, abstracts, bodies, methods, examples, summaries, results and claims.

28. (new) A method for making technology related business decisions comprising the analysis method of claim 25 further comprising examining the standard picture of technology evolution to identify patterns of technology development.

29. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the first frequency count threshold is a word count.

30. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the first frequency count threshold is a fraction of the maximum count in a selected column of the first word correlation matrix.

31. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein documents are assigned to a technology topic group using a weighting factor which emphasizes the contribution of the less frequently occurring words in a technology topic.

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32. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein documents are displayed on an x-y plot.

33. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the x-axis of the x-y plot is time-based.

34. (new) The method according to claim 33 wherein the time base of the x-y plot is chosen from the group comprising the publication date, filing date, issue date and priority date.

35. (new) The method according to claim 34 wherein documents within a technology topic are further arrayed in groups chosen from organizations, companies, assignees, individuals and authors.

36. (new) The method according to claim 35 wherein the documents in a technology topic are sorted based on the total number of documents within the technology topic.

37. (new) The method according to claim 33 wherein a document displayed on the x-y plot can be highlighted to show documents containing selected words.

38. (new) The method according to claim 25 wherein the documents are displayed in

a multi-dimensional plot.

39. (new) A method for analysis of a collection of documents which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting a set of documents for analysis;
- b) preparing for electronic analysis of the documents by incorporating selected document sections into a database compatible format;
- c) selecting at least one document section;
- d) forming a technology topics collection comprising sets of words or phrases for each technology topic using expert knowledge;
- e) counting the number of words from each technology topic that exist in each document of the document collection and multiplying the sum by a weighing factor;
- f) assigning each document in the collection to a technology topic;
- g) forming a standard picture of technology evolution by plotting individual documents on a graph with selected technology topics along one axis and a date along another axis.

40. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein the collection of documents is chosen from one or more of the group comprising patents, scientific papers, trade journal articles, newspaper articles, press releases, web pages and magazine articles.

41. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein the document section is chosen from one or more of the group comprising document titles, headlines, abstracts, bodies, methods, examples, summaries, results and claims.

42. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein documents are assigned to a technology topic group using a weighting factor which emphasizes the contribution of less frequently occurring words in a technology topic.

43. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein documents are displayed on an x-y plot.

44. (new) The method according to claim 43 wherein the x-axis of the x-y plot is time-based.

45. (new) The method according to claim 43 wherein the time base of the x-y plot is chosen from the group consisting of the publication date, filing date, issue date and priority date.

46. (new) The method according to claim 43 wherein documents within a technology topic are further arrayed in one or more groups selected from organizations, companies, assignees, individuals and authors.

47. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein the documents in a technology topic are sorted based on the total number of documents within the technology topic.

48. (new) The method according to claim 43 wherein a document displayed on the x-y plot can be highlighted to show documents containing selected words.

49. (new) The method according to claim 39 wherein the documents are displayed in a multi-dimensional plot.

50. (new) A method for analysis of a collection of documents which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting a set of patents for analysis and selecting a collection of references;
- b) preparing for electronic analysis of the patents by incorporating selected patents into a database compatible format;
- c) classifying references into predetermined categories;
- d) identifying scientific, journal or technical references by searching for the journal name using a preformatted list;
- e) forming artificial references in a standard format by comparing technical and journal references to a preformatted list;
- f) forming co-citation clusters using artificial journal references to reveal the

structure of the underlying science;

g) assigning patents from the selected patent to co-citation clusters to form a technology topic; and

h) forming a standard picture of technology evolution by plotting individual documents on a graph with technology topics along one axis and a date along another axis.

51. (new) The method according to claim 50 where the predetermined categories are chosen from one or more of the group comprising patents, scientific papers, trade journal articles, books, newspaper articles, government publications, materials safety data sheets, product brochures, press releases, web pages and magazine articles.

52. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein documents are displayed on an x-y plot.

53. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein documents are displayed on an x-y plot.

54. (new) The method according to claim 53 wherein the x-axis of the x-y plot is time-based.

55. (new) The method according to claim 53 wherein the time base of the x-y plot is chosen from the group consisting of the publication date, filing date, issue date and priority date.

56. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein documents within a technology topic are further arrayed in one or more groups selected from organizations, companies, assignees, individuals and authors.

57. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein the documents in a technology topic are sorted based on the total number of documents within the technology topic.

58. (new) The method according to claim 50 wherein a document displayed on the x-y plot can be highlighted to show documents containing selected words.

59. (new) A method for analysis of a collection of documents which comprises the steps of:

- a) selecting a set of documents for analysis;
- b) preparing for electronic analysis of the documents by incorporating selected patents into a database compatible format;
- c) selecting at least one document section;
- d) forming technology topics using a combination of co-word and co-citation analysis;

- e) assigning patents to technology topics; and
 - f) forming a standard picture of technology evolution by plotting individual documents on a graph with technology topics along one axis and a date along another axis.
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